IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 3, the final sentence is revised as follows:

An illumination apparatus constituted by: an LED light source; a light guide plate having a groove portion for receiving the LED light source and wiring of the LED light source, and character portions constituted by concave (i.e., recessed or hollowed-out) portions or convex (i.e., raised or offset) portions with desired shapes, the character portions being provided on a back surface of the light guide plate; and a base member covering the back surface and the groove portion of the light guide plate, the base member being bonded to the light guide plate in a circumferential edge portion of the base member.

B1

On page 8, the final sentence is amended and split into three paragraphs as follows:

A groove portion 15 is provided in the back surface (opposite to the light emission observable surface) of the light guide plate 10 so as to follow substantially the circumferential wall of the light guide plate 10. The light source unit 20 is received in the groove portion 15 (see Figs. 3 and 4).

B2

In addition, character portions 11 to 13 constituted by convex (i.e., raised or offset) portions having desired shapes are formed in the back surface of the light guide plate 10. Preferably, a metal layer is provided on the surfaces of the convex portions. In this embodiment, a metal layer 16 is formed as a transfer layer of aluminum deposition. The material forming the metal layer is selected suitably in accordance with a desired mode of light emission. For example, metal such as silver, gold, aluminum or chrominum, an alloy of the metal, or the like, may be used.

~~In addition~~ However, the method for forming the metal layer is not limited to the

above-mentioned manner~~, for~~. For example, a metal layer may be formed by evaporating metal or the like, by coating or printing resin, ink, or the like, containing metal or the like, by bonding a film or a tape containing metal or the like, and so on. A half mirror layer may be formed in place of the metal layer.

On page 18, the final sentence is amended and split into three paragraphs as follows:

Although the character portions 11 to 13 are constituted by convex (i.e., raised) portions provided in the light guide plate 10 of the scuff plate illumination apparatus 1, concave (i.e., recessed or hollowed-out) portions having desired shapes may be provided in the back surface of the light guide plate so as to form character portions.

In addition, althought the groove portion for receiving the LED unit 20 is provided in the back surface of the light guide plate in the scuff plate illumination apparatus 1, the groove portion may be provided in a side surface of the light guide plate. Also, in this case, if a box-like case as described above is used, the groove portion can be sealed substantially. Thus, the influence of dust, water, etc. on the LED light source can be prevented.

In addition, the groove portion may be provided on the light emission observable surface side of the light guide plate. In this case, for example, a light permeable sheet is prepared separately, and the light emission observable surface of the light guide plate is covered with the light permeable sheet while the circumferential edge of the light permeable sheet is bonded to the light guide plate. Thus, there is shown a waterproof effect on the LED light source in the same manner as that in the above-mentioned case.